IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	:	09/893541	Confirmation No. 4450
Applicant	:	Alex Cabanes et al.	
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TC/A.U.	:	2174	
Examiner	:	Peng Ke	

Title	:	HEURISTIC KNOWLEDGE PORTAL
Docket No.	:	SVL920010028US1
Customer No.	:	46158

REPLY BRIEF
(37 C.F.R. §41.41)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on November 16, 2007 in connection with the above-identified application.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

Neither appellant nor the Examiner are aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The Examiner agrees that the appellant's statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The Examiner agrees that the appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The Examiner agrees that the appellant's summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The Examiner agrees that the appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The Examiner agrees that the appellant's copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct. A further copy of the appealed claims is contained in the Appendix attached with this Reply Brief for the convenience of the Board.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

The Examiner has relied solely upon US Patent No. 6,499,026 to Rivette et al. (hereinafter, "Rivette"). Further, the Examiner has relied upon Rivette only as an anticipatory reference. No obviousness rejections were made in view of Rivette or any other references.

(9) Grounds of Rejection

All pending claims (claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-22, 24-26, and 28-44) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) as being anticipated by Rivette.

The Examiner's Answer of November 16, 2007 contained no new grounds of rejection under 37 C.F.R. § 41.39(b).

Appellant will reply to each of the arguments presented with Examiner's Answer in turn below and using the "A-H" headings designated by the Examiner.

(10) Appellant's Replies to Examiner's Responses

A) "Display" vs. "Can Display"

The Examiner argued that "Rivette teaches 'displaying in a document pane at least a portion of first content of a current object, displaying in a map pane a K-map indicating object which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including content related to a selected K-map object, and displaying a preview pane third content associated with a preview object selected from the K-map, wherein the document pane, map pane, and preview pane are <u>displayed simultaneously</u> on a single display device' <u>because its system can</u> create all three panes and <u>display them simultaneously together</u>." (emphasis added).

However, by the Examiner's own arguments presented, it is clear that Rivette does not teach simultaneously displaying the three panes identified. He cites to

three separate figures in Rivette and then alleges that Rivette can create all three

panes and display them simultaneously. Specifically, the Examiner cites to Figure

145 A of Rivette, item 14504, and argues that the "document window" is a document

pane; Figures 164 and 117 of Rivette at items 16404 and 11710 "Group Window'

which he argues are a K-map object; and Figures 125 and 148 at items 12504 and

14802 which "image" he alleges are previews of the document.

However, it is well settled that, for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the

reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or

impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present.

The Examiner has not demonstrated the Rivette teaches every aspect of the

claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly, specifically, that the document pane,

map pane, and preview pane are displayed simultaneously on a single display.

Further, the Examiner has attempted to piecemeal assemble the limitations

contained in selected pending claims and then assert that the Rivette patent

anticipates those claims. In doing so, the Examiner has not met his burden of

showing that the reference teaches every aspect of the claimed invention either

explicitly or impliedly nor has he met his burden of demonstrating that any feature

not directly taught is inherently present in Rivette.

The headings presented by the Examiner in his Answer help demonstrate that

he has piecemeal assembled selected portions of the Rivette patent to create the

claimed subject matter using the pending claims as a blueprint. Specifically, the

Examiner took the first position in paragraph A(1) that "Rivette teaches a document

pane because in one of its display windows or panes the user can display an actual

text document of the desired publication." He cited to Rivette figure 145 A, item

14504, the "document window" as being a document pane and further argued that "[t]he information displayed in the document window includes a portion if not all of the content, thus meeting this claim limitation."

The Examiner took the second position in A(2) that "Rivette teaches a K-map pane because the user can display a map of forward cited or backward cited documents in one pane." He cited figure 164 item 16404 and figure 117 item 11710 for a teaching of a "Group Window" and further argued that "[b]oth maps display relevant publications of the selected document" and "[t]he diagram displayed in the cited map is a K-map, thus meeting this claim limitation."

Next the Examiner took the third position in A(3) that "Rivette teaches preview panes because users can preview document's title, assignee, and inventor in one pane." He cited figure 125, item 12504 for this and to figure 148, item 14802 "image" as a preview of the document. He concluded that "[t]he information displayed in the windows is preview content, thus meeting this claim limitation."

Finally, the Examiner assembled the above set of interpretations of selected portions of Rivette (which applicant does not concede) and argued that "these panes and windows can be displayed simultaneously because each pane is a separate window where the display of one pane does not interfere with the display of another."

In the above, the Examiner did not favor the record with a specific discussion of anticipation or inheritancy.

Again, the Examiner has not demonstrated the Rivette teaches every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly, specifically, that the document pane, map pane, and preview pane are displayed simultaneously on a single

display. Further, the Examiner has not provided information with regard to the

teachings of Rivette whereat it is suggested that these views can be displayed

simultaneously. It is the Examiner who describes the simultaneous display and the

alleged ability in Rivette of simultaneous display (it is submitted based on a reading

of the pending claims) and not the Rivette patent itself.

**B) Updating based upon the received user input, at least one of a first
identity of said current object, a second identity of said preview object, and a
K-map parameter**

The Examiner argued that Rivette teaches "updating, based upon the

received user input, at least one of a first identity of said current object, a second

identity of said preview object, and a K-map parameter" because, according to him,

"not only does Rivette allow user to update what is being displayed on one of these

panes, it allows user to update all the windows." He cited to Rivette at column 120,

lines 8-62.

In support of his position, the Examiner assembled portions of Rivette and

argued that "Rivette teaches updating the identity of currently selected objects

based upon the users' input because it allows user to choose what should be

displayed on the text document pane (see column 122, lines 1-45)." He further

argued that "Rivette teaches updating the identity of the preview object based upon

the users' input because it allows the user to choose what should be displayed on

the title pane; (see Rivette, col. 120, lines 10-40) and the image pane. (see Rivette,

col. 125, lines 30-62)." Finally he argued that "Rivette teaches updating the K-map

based on the users' input because it allows the user to choose what is displayed on

the forward/backward cited window; (see Rivette, col. 135, lines 55-col. 136, lines 20) and the tree map pane. (see Rivette, col. 116, lines 44-62)."

Appellant respectfully submits that the limitation of "updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a first identity of said current object, a second identity of said preview object, and a K-map parameter" is only a single element of independent claim 1 and even if those several disconnected portions of Rivette assembled by the Examiner teach this limitation (which appellant denies) the Examiner has not met his burden of showing all of the limitations of that claim including the limitation of "simultaneously the document pane, the map pane, and the preview pane on a single display device" as clearly set out there.

C) Updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter.

The Examiner argued that Rivette teaches "updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter, includes updating the K-map view selector based upon the received user input to correspond to a node view..." because, according to him, "Rivette allows the users to update what is displayed on the document text window and the K-map map."

In support of his position, the Examiner assembled portions of Rivette and argued that "Rivette teaches updating the identity of the currently selected object based upon the users' input because it allows the user to choose what should be displayed on the text document pane (see column 122, lines 1-45)." He further argued that "Rivette teaches updating the identity of the preview object based upon

the users' input because it allows the user to choose what should be displayed on the title pane (see Rivette, col. 120, lines 10-40) and one the image pane (see Rivette, col. 125, lines 30-62)." Finally, he argued that "Rivette teaches 'updating a K-map view selector' because it allow the user to select either a forward citing or a backward citing on the citing map pane (see Rivette, col. 135, lines 55-col. 136, line 20)."

Appellant respectfully submits that the limitation of "updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter" is only a single element of independent claim 10 and even if those several disconnected portions of Rivette assembled by the Examiner teach this limitation (which appellant denies) the Examiner has not met his burden of showing all of the limitations of that claim including the limitations of "updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter, displaying in a document pane at least a portion of first contents of the current object, displaying in a map pane the K-map, and displaying in a preview pane second contents associated with the preview object" as clearly set out there.

Further , as noted previously, Rivette only teaches utilizing a document window (item 11706) for displaying a list of patents and other documents as described in col. 114, lines 22-40 and lines 58-67. In particular, Rivette describes the patents and other documents as being listed in a tabular format of "spreadsheet" format (lines 25-26). As an example, Rivette shows an exemplary listing of a single patent (US Patent No. 5,029,013) in the document window displayed in Figure 133. It is to be noted that no <u>content</u> of the exemplary patent is shown in the document window, or elsewhere in the Figure. Nor does Rivette teach or fairly suggest

displaying patent or other document content in the document window. In fact, as previously described, Rivette reaches displaying the patent or document content in another separate window as described in col. 115, lines 8-15, and as shown in Figures 123-124.

Lastly, appellant respectfully submits that the limitation of the K-map parameter "at least one of a scope, a view selector, and a K-map object parameter" mentioned previously by appellant is not included in claim 10 and is not necessary for its patentability over Rivette or any other art of record.

D) Updating a K-map parameter including updating the K-map to include objects corresponding to the K-map class selector value.

The Examiner argues that Rivette teaches "updating a K-map parameter including updating the K-map to include objects corresponding to the K-map class selector value" because, according to him, "[Rivette] allows the user to select either a forward citing or a backward citing on the citing map pane." He cites to Rivette at col. 135, lines 55-col. 136, line 20 and argues that "forward citation is a different class selector value than backward citation."

Dependent claim 3 includes the limitation that the updating includes updating the K-map class selector value based upon the received user input. Thus, the "class selector value" is a class selector value of the K-map. The Examiner has not demonstrated that the "forward" or "backward" citations are "class selector values" of the K-map as recited in the claim.

E) Updating a K-map class selector valued includes updating the K-map selector value to correspond to one of a people class, a places class, and a things class based upon the received user input.

The Examiner took the position that "Rivette teaches 'updating a K-map class selector valued includes updating the K-map selector value to correspond to one of a people class, a places class, and a things class based upon the received user input' because" according to him, "it allow user to select either a forward citing or a backward citing on the citing map pane." He argued that "forward citation and backward citation are selector value correspond to a things class. (see Rivette, col. 135, lines 55-col. 136, line 20)."

Dependent claim 4 includes the limitation that the updating of the K-map class selector value includes updating the K-map class selector value to correspond to one of a people class, a places class, and a things class based upon the received user input. Thus, again, the "class selector value" is a class selector value of the K-map. The Examiner has not demonstrated that the "forward" or "backward" citations are any type of "class selector values" of the K-map as recited in the claim.

F) The number of links between one node to another is an indication of strength between one node to another.

The Examiner argues that Rivette teaches "the number of links between one node to another is an indication of strength between one node to another" because it allows the user to select either a forward citing or a backward citing on the citing map pane." He further argues that "the number of links between the original

document and the cited document shows the strength citation" and cites to Figure 164, item 16404 of Rivette.

To clarify, appellant argued in the Appeal Brief that "Rivette merely describes showing nodes based on levels of citation, not " a strength of relationship respective to the K-map object greater than a specified value." Rivette only considers whether a relationship exists, while the instant application considers the strength of relationships between objects. The only apparent strength of relationship mentioned in Rivette appears to relate to the number of links between one node and another one or more nodes – which is not a user-selectable measure of strength. In Rivette, the nodes are either related (linked) or not related (not linked) and not strength of relationship between nodes is taught.

Dependent claim 20 includes the limitation of the displaying in a map pane the K-map including displaying a node view of the K-map limited to related objects having a strength of relationship respective to the K-map object greater than a specified value.

The Examiner has not met his burden of showing that this limitation is anticipated by Rivette.

G) Displaying in a preview pane third content associated with the update preview object without changing the display in the document panel.

The Examiner asserted that "the user can change what is displayed on the title pane (figure 125, item 12504 is a preview pane) without changing what is displayed text document window, (See Rivette figure 145 A, item 14504, "document window" is a pane;) because" according to him, "they are independent from each other. (see figure 125, items 11708, 12506, and 12524)."

Dependent claim 7 recites the limitation of receiving a selection of an updated preview object identity from a user through a K-map pane, the selected object identity being one of the objects indicated in the map pane, and further comprising: displaying in the preview pane third contents associated with the updated preview object without changing the displaying in the document panel.

Appellant disagrees with the Examiner that a user changing "what is displayed on the title pane (as allegedly shown in figure 125, item 12504 as a "preview pane") without changing what is displayed text document window" anticipates "displaying in the preview pane third contents associated with the updated preview object without changing the displaying in the document panel" as recited in the identified claim. The third contents displayed in the preview pane are associated with the updated preview object, unlike the vague what is displayed on the title page" which formed the premise of the Examiner's position.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not demonstrated that Rivette anticipates the claims pending in the instant application.

H) Receiving a text entry through user highlighting of text in the document display pane.

Lastly in the Examiner's Answer, he asserted that "Rivette teaches 'receiving a text entry through the user highlighting of text in the document display pane' because" according to him, "it allows users to highlight within the text document." Column 26, lines 20-28 of Rivette.

Previously, in the Final Office Action, the Examiner cited to Rivette at col. 118, In. 48 – col. 119, In. 42 for a teaching of the limitations of dependent claim 8

which includes, among others, the limitation of "the receiving a user input includes receiving a text entry through user highlighting of text in the document display pane." Appellant argued that those portions of Rivette identified by the Examiner teach entering text via text fields in a dialog box (such as at item 12802 in Figure 128, rather than "receiving a text entry through user highlighting of text in the document display pane" as set out in claim 8.

Now the Examiner cites column 26, lines 20-28 of Rivette which is an incorporation by reference paragraph including by reference U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,623,679 and 5,623,681 and (then) pending application 08/341,129.

Thus, the specific teachings of Rivette now relied upon by the Examiner in the position taken in the Examiner's Answer are not apparent to appellant.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not demonstrated that Rivette anticipates the claims pending in the instant application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not made out a case of anticipation with regard to the claims pending in the instant application for reasons set out above and as set out during prosecution and in the Appeal Brief.

Allowance of all pending claims and early notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDICES

(11) Related Proceeding(s)

No decision rendered by a court or the Board was identified by the Examiner

in the Related appeals and Interferences section of this Examiner's answer.

(12) Claims Appendix

Claims involved in the Appeal are as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A user interface method for executing one or more operations in a computer for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal that is operatively associated with a plurality of data objects, the user interface method comprising:

displaying in a document pane at least a portion of first contents of a current object;

displaying in a map pane a K-map indicating objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including second contents related to a selected K-map object;

displaying in a preview pane third contents associated with a preview object selected from the K-map, wherein the document pane, map pane, and preview pane are displayed simultaneously on a single display device;

receiving a user input;

updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a first identify of said current object, a second identity of said preview object, and a K-map parameter; and

updating the K-map conditional upon the updating of a K-map parameter.

2. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map view selector based upon the received user input to correspond to a node view; and

the displaying in a map pane the K-map includes displaying a non-hierarchical node view of the K-map.

3. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map class selector value based upon the received user input; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects corresponding to the K-map class selector value.

4. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 3, wherein:

the updating a K-map class selector value includes updating the K-map selector value to correspond to one of a people class, a places class, and a things class based upon the received user input.

5. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map scope based upon the received user input; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including fourth contents relating to the K-map object and having a strength of relationship respective to the K-map object within the updated K-map scope.

6. (Previously Presented) The user interlace method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of an updated current object identity from the user through the K-map pane, the updated current object identity being one of the objects indicated in the map pane;

the updating, based on the received user input, at least one of the current object identity, the preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map object to correspond with the updated current object; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including fourth contents related to the updated current object.

7. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of an updated preview object identity from the user through the K-map pane, the selected object identity being one of the objects indicated in the map pane, the method further comprising:

displaying in the preview pane third contents associated with the updated preview object without changing the displaying in the document panel.

8. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the receiving a user input includes receiving a text entry through user highlighting of text in the document display pane;

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map object to correspond with the received text entry; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including fifth content related to the selected text.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for executing one or more operations in a computer for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal operatively associated with a plurality of data objects, the apparatus comprising:

a computer having a data store coupled thereto, wherein the data store stores the plurality of data objects; and

one or more computer programs, performed by the computer for:

receiving a user input,

updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter,

updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter,

displaying in a document pane at least a portion of first contents of the current object,

displaying in a map pane the K-map, and

displaying in a preview pane second contents associated with the preview object.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map view selector based upon the received user input, the K-map view selector having at least a node view selection option and a tree view selection option; and

the displaying in a map pane the K-map includes selectively displaying one of a tree view and a node view of the K-map based upon the setting of the K-map view selector.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map class selector value based upon the received user input, the class selector including at least a people class selection option, a places class selection option, and a things class selection option; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects corresponding to the K-map class selector value.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map scope based upon the received user input; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects within the K-map scope.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of the current object identity from the user through the K-map pane; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects related to the current object.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the receiving a user input includes receiving a selection of the preview object identity from the user through the K-map pane.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the receiving a user input includes receiving a text entry supplied through user highlighting of text in the document display pane;

the updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of a current object identity, a preview object identity, and a K-map parameter includes updating an object K-map parameter to correspond with the received text entry; and

the updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter includes updating the K-map to include objects related to the selected text.

18. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further including:

simultaneously displaying the document pane, the map pane, and the preview pane on a single display device.

19. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for executing an operation to perform a user interface method for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal operatively associated with a plurality of data objects, the method comprising:

generating a knowledge portal catalog cataloging data objects based on content, the knowledge portal contextually linking the objects based on document content;

displaying in a document pane at least a portion of first contents of a current object;

constructing a K-map identifying related objects having second contents related to a K-map object as measured by a strength of relationship between the related object and the K-map object;

displaying in a map pane the K-map; and

displaying in a preview pane third contents associated with a preview object selected from the related objects, the preview pane being displayed simultaneously with the document pane and the map pane.

20. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

the displaying in a map pane the K-map includes displaying a node view of the K-map limited to related objects having a strength of relationship respective to the K-map object greater than a specified value.

21. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

the displayed K-map includes objects corresponding to a user-selectable K-map class selector value.

22. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 21, wherein:

the K-map selector value corresponds to one of a people class, a places class, and a things class.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 19, wherein the method further includes:

receiving a selection of an updated current object identity from the user through the K-map pane;

constructing an updated K-map that includes objects related to the updated current object;

displaying at least a portion of fourth contents of the updated current object in the document pane; and

displaying the updated K-map in the map pane.

25. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 19, wherein the method further includes:

receiving a selection of the preview object identity from the user through the K-map pane.

26. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 19, wherein the method further includes:

receiving a text entry supplied through user highlighting of text in the document display pane; and

updating the K-map to include objects related to the selected text.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A user interface for interfacing an associated user with a knowledge portal that is operatively associated with a plurality of data objects and contextually links the objects based on document content, the user interface comprising:

a means for receiving a user input;

a K-map processor for calculating a K-map corresponding to a current object and a set of K-map parameters, the K-map identifying objects indicated by a catalog of the knowledge portal as having first contents related to the current object;

a current object display pane for displaying at least a portion of second contents of the current object;

a K-map display pane for displaying the K-map; and

a preview pane different from the current object display pane for displaying third contents corresponding to a preview object.

29. (Previously Presented) The user interface as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the K-map display pane displays the K-map in a non-hierarchical node view.

30. (Previously Presented) The user interface as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects limited to objects corresponding to the K-map class parameter.

31. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim 30, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the class parameter is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating on a graphical class input dialog.

32. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim 30, wherein:

the class parameter selectively takes values including a people class value, a places class value, and a things class value.

33. (Previously Presented) The user interface as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects limited to objects whose relationship to the current object falls within the K-map scope parameter value.

34. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim 33, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the scope parameter is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating on a graphical scope input dialog.

35. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim 34, wherein the graphical scope input dialog is a slider bar.

36. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the current object is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating within the K-map display pane.

37. (Previously Presented) The user interface as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the K-map display pane; and

the preview object is selectively updateable by the user via the pointing device selection means operating within the K-map display pane, the updating of the preview object not affecting the current display pane.

38. (Original) The user interface as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the set of K-map parameters includes an object parameter, said object parameter being selectively updateable by the user; and

the K-map processor calculates a K-map containing objects related to the object corresponding to the object parameter.

39. (Previously Presented) The user interface as set forth in claim 38, wherein:

the means for receiving a user input include a pointing device selection means operative at least within the document display pane whereby the user selectively updates the object parameter by selecting text corresponding thereto from the second contents of the object display pane.

40. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the preview pane third contents associated with the updated preview object and displayed in the preview pane are metadata stored in the knowledge portal rather than in the preview object itself.

41. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture as set forth in claim 19, wherein the method further includes:

updating the K-map object to correspond to one of a group consisting of: (i) a double-clicked K-map entry, (ii) text in the document pane that is highlighted by a user, and (iii) one or more search terms entered by a user; and

updating the displayed K-map to identify at least (i) related objects having fourth contents related to the updated K-map object, and (ii) a measure of a strength of relationship between each related object and the updated K-map object.

42. (Previously Presented) The user interface method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the K-map parameter includes at least one of a scope, a view selector, a class selector, and a K-map object parameter.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

the K-map parameter includes at least one of a scope, a view selector, a class selector, and a K-map object parameter.

44. (Previously Presented) The user interface as set forth in claim 28, wherein:

the set of K-map parameters includes at least one of a scope, a view selector, a class selector, and a K-map object parameter